

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-25 and 27-33 are pending in the application. Claims 27-33 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 16-25 are rejected. Claims 1-8 and 10-15 are objected to. Applicants herein add new claim 34 and request entry of the same.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner objects to claims 1, 5-7 and 16 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(i) because each active verb step is not indented. Applicants herein effect the requisite changes.

The Examiner objects to claims 16, 17 and 19 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as allegedly not further limiting a previous claim. Applicants herein rewrite claims 16 and 17 in independent format incorporating all the language of claim 1 into each of claims 16, 17. Applicants herein cancel claim 19 without prejudice.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 2-7 and 9-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner highlights the reasons discussed below.

Claim 16 is allegedly unclear for reciting “detecting the proteins *ex vivo*” because obtaining a sample of red blood cells separated from whole blood and detecting necessarily involves preparing an “*ex vivo*” sample. Applicants herein delete the term “*ex vivo*.”

Claim 17 is allegedly unclear because “the other blood components” lacks antecedent basis. Applicants herein delete “the” thereby providing proper antecedent basis for “other blood components.”

Claim 19 is allegedly unclear because "detected by immunoassay" does not further limit claim 1 (and lacks antecedent basis) because claim 1 already recites that the detection is performed with an antibody. Applicants herein cancel claim 19 without prejudice.

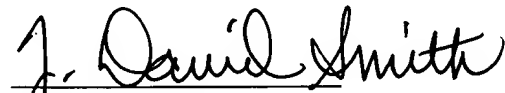
Claims 20-24 are allegedly unclear because they recite both "human monocyte" and "U937" to describe the cells. The Examiner recommends cancelling "U937" in the claims and perhaps adding a new dependent claim to specify that the human monocyte cells are U937 cells. Applicants herein follow the Examiner's advice and delete the term "U937" from each of claims 20-24 and herein add new claim 34 specifying the particular cell line of the human monocytes.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks in the file history of the instant Application. The Claims as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of all of the outstanding rejections is therefore believed in order. Early and favorable action on the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KLAUBER & JACKSON



J. David Smith
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 39,839

KLAUBER & JACKSON
411 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack NJ 07601
Tel: (201) 487-5800